

VZCZCXYZ0002
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSG #0281 0831702
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 241702Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4694
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 3886
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2345
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1386
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0795
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2004
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 6088
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4317
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2266
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000281

SIPDIS

STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [EFIN](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: CHILE MEDIA REPORT - MARCH 24

Leading Stories

11. Stock markets worldwide reacted positively to President Obama's new financial plan. Dailies also reported on the seizure of more than a ton of the chemical ephedrine in an operation to dismantle a narcotics operation tied to Mexico.

Chile's Rating Upgraded

12. Moody's raised Chile's foreign debt rating from A2 to A1, with a "positive outlook." According to Moody's, the improved rating reflects "a greater resistance of Chile's economy to extern shocks, as a result of robust policies a solid fiscal balance." Chile's "favorable loan profile benefits from an economic policy framework designed to mitigate macro-economic volatility, which is a condition especially relevant given the current global situation," said the ratings agency (Diario Financiero, business and financial, circ. 30,000, 3/24).

Mexican Drug Traffickers

13. The investigations police (PDI) and the Metropolitan Prosecutor's Office conducted an operation that culminated yesterday with the largest seizure ever of an ephedrine cargo in Chile: 1 ton of the chemical in Santiago and another 75 kilos in the Fifth Region. The chemical is used to manufacture methamphetamine and was en route to Mexico (All dailies, 3/24).

SIMONS